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NEWS

NMTBA
The Association For Manufacturing Technology

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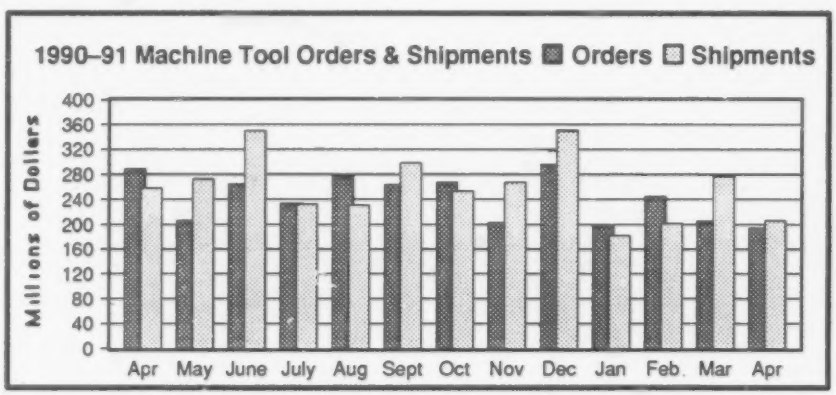
Machine Tool Orders Dip in April

April machine tool orders stood at $194.65 million, 5.3% below the March total of $205.45 million, according to figures released today by NMTBA – The Association For Manufacturing Technology. Year–to–date orders stand at $845.10 million, down 11.1% compared to 1990. Comparing this April to April 1990, orders were down 32.7%.

At $206.30 million, total machine tool shipments for April were down 25.5% from the $276.85 million tallied in March. Year–to–date 1991 shipments stand at $867.85 million, down 16.7% compared to 1990. April 1991 shipments were 20.1% below the total for the same month a year ago.



"Although the current domestic market is weak, foreign orders for machine tools continue to run ahead of last year, again demonstrating the competitiveness of the U.S. machine tool industry," said NMTBA President Albert W. Moore. "In 1990 the U.S. machine tool industry had record exports. Through the first four months of this year, export orders are up by 11.4%."

He continued, "The U.S. still leads the world in productivity, and the dollar and wage rates are both favorable to U.S. competitiveness. Just a few years ago, pundits were writing off heavy U.S.

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industries as dinosaurs unable to adapt. But I think they missed a fundamental lesson of the value of competition. U.S. industry, including the machine tool industry, has restructured — and will continue to improve and to become more and more competitive. The machine tool industry has a unique part to play in the revitalization of U.S. industry."

Metal Cutting

April metal cutting orders totaled $136.75 million, down 10.9% for the month. Year–to–date metal cutting orders were down 8.4% compared to 1990. Comparing April 1991 to the same month a year ago, orders were down 33.8%.

April metal cutting shipments stood at $145.10 million, down 16.5%. Year–to–date shipments were 21.3% lower than the same period in 1990. Comparing April 1991 to April 1990, metal cutting shipments were down 14.1%.

Metal Forming

April orders for metal forming equipment totaled $57.90 million, up 11.6% from March. Year–to–date 1991 metal forming orders were down 17.4% compared to 1990. April 1991 orders were 29.9% lower than orders for the same month in 1990.

At $61.20 million, metal forming shipments in April were 40.6% below the total for March. Year–to–date metal forming shipments were off 6.6%. Comparing April 1991 to April 1990, shipments were down 31.4%.

Backlog

The machine tool order backlog for April 1991 was $1,445.65 million, down from March's $1,457.30 million. The April 1990 backlog was $1713.20 million.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
APR 1991	114.15	22.60	136.75	39.35	18.55	57.90	153.50	41.15	194.65
MAR 1991	127.20	26.35	153.55	31.45	20.45	51.90	158.65	46.80	205.45
% CHANGE									
APR 1991:MAR 1991	-10.3	-14.2	-10.9	+25.1	-9.3	+11.6	-3.2	-12.1	-5.3
APR 1990	187.45	19.20	206.65	77.25	5.35	82.60	264.70	24.55	289.25
% CHANGE									
APR 1991:APR 1990	-39.1	+17.7	-33.8	-49.1	+246.7	-29.9	-42.0	+67.6	-32.7
YEAR TO DATE 1991	462.35	144.25	606.60	181.90	56.60	238.50	644.25	200.85	845.10
YEAR TO DATE 1990	538.20	124.10	662.30	232.40	56.25	288.65	770.60	180.35	950.95
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	-14.1	+16.2	-8.4	-21.7	+0.6	-17.4	-16.4	+11.4	-11.1

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
APR 1991	126.70	18.40	145.10	46.95	14.25	61.20	173.65	32.65	206.30
MAR 1991	148.75	25.10	173.85	86.05	16.95	103.00	234.80	42.05	276.85
% CHANGE									
APR 1991:MAR 1991	-14.8	-26.7	-16.5	-45.4	-15.9	-40.6	-26.0	-22.4	-25.5
APR 1990	141.65	27.30	168.95	76.70	12.45	89.15	218.35	39.75	258.10
% CHANGE									
APR 1991:APR 1990	-10.6	-32.6	-14.1	-38.8	+14.5	-31.4	-20.5	-17.9	-20.1
YEAR TO DATE 1991	478.15	84.75	562.90	252.80	52.15	304.95	730.95	136.90	867.85
YEAR TO DATE 1990	608.45	105.35	714.80	288.50	38.05	326.55	896.95	144.40	1,041.35
% CHANGE									
1991 : 1990	-21.4	-20.3	-21.3	-12.4	+37.1	-6.6	-18.5	-5.2	-16.7

Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,532.50	$ 432.20	$2,964.70	$1,468.40	$2,855.55	$ 444.35	$3,299.90
1991							
JAN	$ 167.00	$ 32.85	$ 199.85	$1,485.70	$ 154.25	$ 28.30	$ 182.55
FEB	$ 165.10	$ 80.05	$ 245.15	$1,528.70	$ 168.25	$ 33.90	$ 202.15
MAR	$ 158.65	$ 46.80	$ 205.45	$1,457.30	$ 234.80	$ 42.05	$ 276.85
APR (P)	$ 153.50	$ 41.15	$ 194.65	$1,445.65	$ 173.65	$ 32.65	$ 206.30
4 MONTHS	$ 644.25	$ 200.85	$ 845.10		$ 730.95	$ 136.90	$ 867.85

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$2,641.25	$ 459.85	$3,101.10	$ 108.75	$ 27.65	$ 136.40
1991						
JAN	$ 176.75	$ 40.00	$ 216.75	$ 9.75	$ 7.15	$ 16.90
FEB	$ 175.15	$ 81.10	$ 256.25	$ 10.05	$ 1.05	$ 11.10
MAR	$ 169.60	$ 48.10	$ 217.70	$ 10.95	$ 1.30	$ 12.25
APR (P)	$ 159.55	$ 42.80	$ 202.35	$ 6.05	$ 1.65	$ 7.70
4 MONTHS	$ 681.05	$ 212.00	$ 893.05	$ 36.80	$ 11.15	$ 47.95

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,771.95	$ 298.35	$2,070.30	$1,164.00	$2,004.45	$ 325.15	$2,329.60
1991							
JAN	$ 107.20	$ 22.85	$ 130.05	$1,183.25	$ 93.25	$ 17.55	$ 110.80
FEB	$ 113.80	$ 72.45	$ 186.25	$1,236.35	$ 109.45	$ 23.70	$ 133.15
MAR	$ 127.20	$ 26.35	$ 153.55	$1,216.05	$ 148.75	$ 25.10	$ 173.85
APR (P)	$ 114.15	$ 22.60	$ 136.75	$1,207.70	$ 126.70	$ 18.40	$ 145.10
4 MONTHS	$ 462.35	$ 144.25	$ 606.60		$ 478.15	$ 84.75	$ 562.90

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$1,867.25	$ 318.45	$2,185.70	$ 95.30	$ 20.10	$ 115.40
1991						
JAN	$ 115.90	$ 29.95	$ 145.85	$ 8.70	$ 7.10	$ 15.80
FEB	$ 123.40	$ 73.45	$ 196.85	$ 9.60	$ 1.00	$ 10.60
MAR	$ 137.05	$ 27.55	$ 164.60	$ 9.85	$ 1.20	$ 11.05
APR (P)	$ 118.30	$ 24.20	$ 142.50	$ 4.15	$ 1.60	$ 5.75
4 MONTHS	$ 494.65	$ 155.15	$ 649.80	$ 32.30	$ 10.90	$ 43.20

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 760.55	$ 133.85	$ 894.40	$ 304.40	$ 851.10	$ 119.20	$ 970.30
1991							
JAN	$ 59.80	$ 10.00	$ 69.80	$ 302.45	$ 61.00	$ 10.75	$ 71.75
FEB	$ 51.30	$ 7.60	$ 58.90	$ 292.35	$ 58.80	$ 10.20	$ 69.00
MAR	$ 31.45	$ 20.45	$ 51.90	$ 241.25	$ 86.05	$ 16.95	$ 103.00
APR (P)	$ 39.35	$ 18.55	$ 57.90	$ 237.95	$ 46.95	$ 14.25	$ 61.20
4 MONTHS	$ 181.90	$ 56.60	$ 238.50		$ 252.80	$ 52.15	$ 304.95

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1990	$ 774.00	$ 141.40	$ 915.40	$ 13.45	$ 7.55	$ 21.00
1991						
JAN	$ 60.85	$ 10.05	$ 70.90	$ 1.05	$ .05	$ 1.10
FEB	$ 51.75	$ 7.65	$ 59.40	$ .45	$ .05	$ .50
MAR	$ 32.55	$ 20.55	$ 53.10	$ 1.10	$ .10	$ 1.20
APR (P)	$ 41.25	$ 18.60	$ 59.85	$ 1.90	$ .05	$ 1.95
4 MONTHS	$ 186.40	$ 56.85	$ 243.25	$ 4.50	$ .25	$ 4.75

P - Preliminary
R - Revised
Source: NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology